We discover: Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine is a research powerhouse working for a healthier world for all

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Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine (LSU Vet Med) is a biomedical research powerhouse with $74 million in federal funding for biomedical research, including $22 million in Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence funding from the NIH.

Working for a healthier world for all, we are home to 2 Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE), the newest of which is the Center for Pre-Clinical Cancer Research. The Cancer COBRE established a new specialized core facility, the Pre-Clinical Evaluation Core, to provide scientific and technical expertise for cancer projects and researchers. This includes expertise in advanced 3-D cancer cell culture systems (spheroids) to derive critical translational information. The Cancer COBRE enhances cancer research both at LSU and at Southern University, strengthens collaborative research efforts with the LSU Health Sciences Center-New Orleans, and aids in efforts to establish a National Cancer Institute–designated Cancer Center in Louisiana.

LSU Vet Med’s biomedical cancer research efforts are on a strategic growth trajectory. In addition to our increasing capacity for cancer clinical trials in veterinary medicine, we are leveraging the combined resources of our Center for Pre-Clinical Cancer Research and our small animal clinical trial capacity toward the formation of a Center for Comparative Oncology that provides preclinical testing for cancer drug development. This center will work together with the LSU Health Sciences Stanley Scott Cancer Center and the Louisiana Cancer Research Center to address cancers in animals and humans with the intention of taking steps toward forming a nationally recognized comprehensive cancer center with a National Cancer Institute designation. Collaboration across campuses will synergistically address cancers in humans and animals.

The biomedical research taking place at LSU Vet Med focuses on the link between animal and human health with scientists investigating human and animal diseases and injuries related to cancer biology, infectious disease, vaccinology, equine health, lung biology, toxicology, and other crucial areas aimed at enhancing and protecting lives. Fewer than 5% of anticancer drugs are successful in clinical trials, indicating that current preclinical cancer drug research is not predictive of efficacy in humans. Our research takes place in a state that ranks fifth in the nation for cancer mortality and above the national average for cancers that disproportionately affect African Americans.

Our clinical oncology and radiation oncology units allow us to study animals with cancer under our care and open the way for tumor biobanking for longitudinal studies. We are expanding our clinical trial program and refitting laboratories with core instrumentation and technology.

In addition to excellence in cancer research, our strengths are many and varied: we are a global leader in equine research and health with over $15 million in equine research funding. The Louisiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory at LSU Vet Med works with state and federal agencies to safeguard animal and human health against deadly diseases. We also offer PhD and MS degrees in Comparative Biomedical Sciences, Pathobiological Sciences, and Veterinary Clinical Sciences, with Comparative Biomedical Sciences conducting basic and translational research in cancer biology, cardiovascular disease, developmental biology, neurosciences, and toxicology.